

**Advent/Christmas 2021 Edition**

**Merry Christmas**

***Minister’s Message***

David and I would like to take a moment to wish you a very Merry Christmas. During this season, we will be celebrating Hope, Peace, Love and Joy; I pray that all four of these would fill your life in every way this Christmas and beyond.

This Christmas, as in all previous years, we celebrate “Immanuel” (God with us). Without Christ’s presence among us we would be lost. Through God’s presence working within us we are being healed, transformed, reconciled and made whole. When God is with us, who can be against us? We can do all things through God who strengthens us. Together we can accomplish anything and we have! It has been an ever evolving year together. We have accomplished so much despite the difficult circumstances we have faced.

So, I would like to take a moment to say thank you.  I am so grateful for how you have served so sacrificially this past year. Whether it’s serving coffee; setting up for worship; playing music; running our technology, leading UCW, delivering mailbox ministry or any one of the countless other (usually unseen) tasks that keep our community running, I am grateful. Thank you so much for all you do!

I am also grateful to our online and mailbox ministry members, we appreciate your need to be safe but still wanting to be in community with your St. Andrew’s United Church family.

We are still learning together how best to navigate these trying times and so if you have any suggestions on how to serve this community, the world and in turn, God better, I would love to hear from you.

Wishing you many blessings for a safe and Merry Christmas,

Rev. Cheryl Bolton and Dave

Information for the Coming Season

White Gift Sunday is December 5. Please bring any non-perishables such as food, hats, mitts, and new toys on this Sunday. All items will be donated to Christmas Care!

Here are some things we need to learn from those in need:

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.

2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.

3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.

4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.

5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni which they also get a lot of.

6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.

7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.

8. Sugar and flour are treats.

9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.

10. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.

11. They rarely get fresh meat.

12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.

13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.

14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.

15. Butter or margarine is nice too.

16. Eggs are a real commodity.

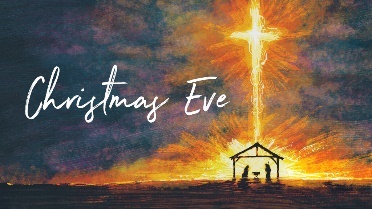
17. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child’s birthday cake.

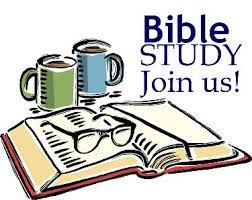
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.

19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.

20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

21. Aluminum Roasting Pans

**Join Us on Christmas Eve for a wonderful service at 5pm! All are welcome!**

** Bible Study has begun but new participants are welcome at any time. The Good News of Joy to the world started November 24 and runs every Wednesday until December 22nd. Please let Rev.Cheryl or the Office know if you want to participate-11am every Wednesday.**

**On December 26, we will be doing a Carol sing during regular Sunday Service. We would love to see you. So come and enjoy singing some carols (safely masked of course. Feel free to bring some left-over goodies to share during fellowship time.**

**Euchre returns on December 9 at 1:30pm in the church hall.**